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ADVERTISING

Fastening Caps on Fuse for Blasting.

If miners generally will pay careful attention to fixing their caps on the fuse when blasting with high explosives they will get much better effect from their blasts than is always the case. Very few appreciate the importance of this point, and it is the object of this article to explain it.

It is a common custom to secure the cap on the fuse by pinching the cap shell or by biting it between the teeth—a dangerous practice, which has resulted in a number of accidents. Other miners simply push the cap on to the end of the fuse, thinking that as long as it does not fall off the result will be the same. But this is not the case. The more firmly the cap is pinched on to the fuse the better the detonating effect of the fulminate of mercury in the cap, and the more complete and sudden the decomposition of the powder. This has been fully proven by careful experiments.

Some time since complaint was made by Eastern purchasers of caps made here, that they did not get good results. Some of the caps did not go off, and others did not do the execution expected. The local makers were puzzled at this, as there were no complaints here, and experiments were made to find out the cause.

It was found, in the first place, that Eastern and European fuse was somewhat smaller than that made here. The caps made to use on California fuse, therefore fitted loosely on the Eastern fuse, and when the cap was fired, sometimes even the shell was not broken. In others the fire would burn down slowly until heat enough was developed, when the cap would explode, but with comparatively small effect. In fact, though paying for a triple-force cap, they were only getting the benefit of a single-force one. This led to a lot of other experiments about loose caps on the fuse. They resulted in proving that a cap not properly secured to the fuse lost something more than half its power. They found that a double-force cap, well secured, would do almost as much good as a triple one. It is therefore urged upon all users of such caps to secure the cap well with suitable nippers, of which there are several kinds in the market. The nippers cut the fuse, point it so it will go into the shell easily, and also forcibly nip the upper end of the cap-shell on the fuse, so there can be no escape of gas. This makes the cap watertight, also. So well is this understood by some mining men that special men are employed to prepare caps and fuse for miners. Superintendent Patton has a boy who does nothing else at the mines in his charge and it is found to pay well.

When the fuse is too small, or the cap is fitted loosely and not squeezed on, the cap loses from 80 to 90 per cent of its force. The gases escape from the cap or shell alongside the fuse. The fulminate of mercury in the shell requires "tamping" so to speak, just like nitro glycerine and other powders, to give its best effect. Anyone can try this by unwrapping one of the tapes from a piece of fuse, which reduces it in size; then put on the shell. The fuse "spits" ahead and will sometimes blow the cap off without firing it; and when it does fire it is a comparatively small effect is given.

One of the experiments to prove this was made with a piece of one-sixteenth wrought-iron plate. Where a cap was simply pushed on to the fuse loosely and fired, very little impression was made on the plate. When the cap was pinched tightly on to the fuse, so its contents were confined, a round hole was blown clear through the iron by the cap. Caps and fuse were, in each instance, of the same make.

It is well understood that the more powerful the explosion on the high grade powders to discharge them, the better are the results, and it is in the interest of economy and good work that miners should firmly and tightly secure their caps on their fuse. There will be fewer misfires and better execution in blasting.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Satisfied Curiosity.

One night in our camp in the Calaveras region, one of the miners said: "Well, boys, I should like to see a grizzly."

"You would not if you should meet him by moonlight alone."

The first speaker was Archie Young, a man who had been around the world and thought "seeing a grizzly" would add the most pleasure to his varied life. It was the winter of 1880-81, and not much mining could be just then done. That afternoon Young started out after deer. He carried a double-barreled shotgun, a five-shot revolver, a bowie-knife and a hatchet. Young struck out boldly into the chapparal. The surrounding scenery was grand; but the hunter had little time for meditation, for his cabin must be supplied with some fresh meat. A light snow had fallen the previous evening. After Young had traveled about a quarter of a mile, he saw a large track in the snow. Then he saw another track. The tracks were about two feet long and nearly as broad. Young had never before seen such tracks. He exclaimed: "Jupiter! that must be a grizzly's track!"

Young would have acted wisely if he had taken the shortest road home; but the spirit of the chase prompted him. He grasped his gun with a grasp more firm and started eagerly up the trail. Absorbed in the chase, Young suddenly heard a strange noise. Around a rock stepped a huge beast. Mr. Grizzly had taken a notion to retreat his steps. Man and bear face each other. They must fight. Neither can or will run. Quick as he can Young jerks up his gun and fires both barrels, breaking Bruin's upper jaw. Bruin rears up and falls upon the hapless hunter. The bear's upper jaw has been blown off; with his under jaw he makes the man horribly. The hunter manages to get his hand on his revolver, which he presses under the bear's forehead. He fires as fast as he can. Every time he pulls the trigger he feels the bear "give." At the last shot, both bear and man fall exhausted. The miners at the camp heard the shot gun's report, and when they heard no further tidings and Young did not come back, they started out to look for them. They found him held fast by the weight of the bear. The bear was dead and the man scarcely alive. The bear weighed 1,600 pounds. Young got well, though much scared, especially in the face. He never again wanted to see a grizzly.—Detroit Commercial Advertiser.

Steel.

The popular idea of steel is that it is a metal produced from iron, and possessed of extreme hardness and temper. The idea originated and became almost immovably fixed during the many centuries in which none was in use, except such forms as would admit of hardening. The use of steel, until within the last thirty years, was in the making of edge tools. Our idea of fine steel is still always that which will admit of a fine edge. Strictly and technically speaking, however, steel was never anything more than an alloy of iron, the alloy being chiefly carbon. In the light of discoveries of recent years, we now know that there are a number of varieties of such alloy or steel—that there are hard and soft steels, according to the process of production and proportion of alloy. There are those who have favored giving the newer, and softer steels a distinctive name, retaining the word steel for the harder metal only. The terms "mild steel" and "homogeneous metal" were invented but never adopted, and the steel of commerce to-day is an alloy of iron, which is cast while in a fluid state into a malleable ingot. To be steel it must be malleable and the product of fusion. This definition excludes pig iron, which is fused iron but not malleable and puddled iron, which is malleable but not fused.—Blacksmith and Wheelwright.

History of the Steel Square

Pliny says that Theodorus, a Greek of Samos, invented the square and level, but the square figures are seen in the represented designs of the Tower of Babel, one of the earliest important known structures. The city of Babylon was a perfect square, and the bricks used in its building and walls were square; so probably were those in the Babel. Now, to form small squares correctly, and to introduce them in endless combination into buildings, it needed a guiding instrument of some kind. So the square, as a constructive tool, came into use.

Among the ruins of Babylon, Nineveh and Petra, it is said to be found represented. There are pictures and sculptures from the ruins of Thebes

in Egypt, showing the square in the hands of the artisan.

Evidence of its use are also seen in ruins in India which are thought by some to antedate those found in Egypt. Among the ruins of the Aztecs, or people before them, in Peru and Brazil, it has also been found; and though tools of stone and flint, such as axes, hatchets, hammers, etc., were the first used by primitive man in these ruins that date back beyond history, the square is found, and specimens may be seen in the British Museum.

The square was regarded by the ancients as a symbol of completeness. Simonides speaks of a man square as to his hands, feet, and his mind, etc. Aristotle uses a similar figure.—California Architect.

When a Relocation is a Trespass.

Miners making relocations of mining ground should be careful to find out that the said ground is legally abandoned and open to relocation by failure to do assessment work, etc., before they take trouble to claim it. The Supreme Court of Colorado has just re-affirmed its former decision that actual possession is prima facie evidence of title, and that entering upon premises in the actual possession of another for the purpose of performing the acts necessary to constitute location and possession, amounts to a trespass, and cannot form the basis for the acquisition of title. Whether the location of the party in possession be valid or not, possession is sufficient to defeat a recovery by the party entering to make a new location. In this decision, the principle of "possession being nine points of the law" is maintained, and miners should bear this in mind when desiring to make relocations.

The same court also decides that mine owners are not responsible for recorders' mistakes. The prior location of a mining claim is not invalidated by a mistake of a recorder in recording such location by a name somewhat different from that stated in the certificate of location.

The Mosquito's Instrument of Torture.

A writer in the London Sportsman thus describes a mosquito as seen under a microscope:

It appears that in the "bill" of the little beast alone there are no fewer than five distinct surgical instruments. These are described as a lance, two meat saws, a suction pump and a small Corliss engine. It appears that when a "skeeter" settles down to his work upon a nice tender portion of the human frame the lance is first pushed into the flesh, then the two saws, placed back to back, begin to work up and down to enlarge the hole, then the pump is inserted, and the victim's blood is siphoned up to the reservoirs carried behind, and finally, to complete the cruelty of the performance, the wretch drops a quantity of poison into the wound to keep it irritated. Then the diminutive fiend takes a fly around just to digest your gore, and makes tracks for a fresh victim, or if the first has been of unusual good quality he returns to the same happy hunting ground. The mosquito's marvelous energy, combined with his portable operating chest, make him at once a terror and a pest.

An Immense Cantilever Bridge.

One of the greatest pieces of engineering work in course of construction is the cantilever bridge over the Forth in Scotland. Although from 900 to 1,200 men are employed in the work of preparing the steel, laying foundations for piers, etc., and the capital invested in the plant amounts to a half a million of dollars, the contractors will consider themselves fortunate if they can complete the bridge within six years. Immense work is now being done on the ground, where the workmen also reside, and work is carried on night and day by the aid of electric lights. The cantilevers are so long that instead of attempting to carry them through the workshops where the parts are put together, the workshop itself is moved with all its ponderous machinery. Hydraulic presses are employed to make steel tubes out of plates over twelve feet in length, four feet in width, and an inch and an eighth in thickness. Ten of the plates bent to form and riveted together make up a steel tube twelve feet in diameter. Each cantilever is to rise to a height

of 350 feet above the immense stone piers, and will stretch out arms 650 feet in length, right and left of the center. The complete bridge will tower more than 350 feet above the water level.

Coral Fishing.

Coral fishing is largely followed in Algeria, 40,000 to 45,000 pounds of coral, valued at about £38,000, being the yearly production; La Calle is the center of this industry, and there are employed annually 160 boats and 1,300 men. The coral is obtained by means of a wooden apparatus in the shape of a cross, having in its center a leaden slug or stone for ballast. Nets, the meshes of which are loose, are hung on the bars of the cross and dragged at the bottom of the sea, and among the nooks and crevices of the rocks. These nets, winding about the coraline plant, break up or tear off its branches, which adhere to the meshes. The apparatus is drawn up by the fisherman whenever he thinks it sufficiently laden. There is also a net which is provided with large iron nails, having thus great force to break the coral, but this apparatus is forbidden to be used.

Germany's Great Loss.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Germany is still face to face with the questions asked by the chamber of commerce at Minden a few years ago: "Has the German empire been founded for the purpose of driving its citizens forth into exile?" Last year 200,000 persons left the Fatherland; and this year it is estimated that the number will be increased by at least 20,000. How long Germany can stand this constant drain of her best and most productive blood is one of the puzzling questions of the century. So long, however, as she maintains her present oppressive taxation and military system, just so long is the exodus bound to continue.

"Say, Cap, can you give me a small contribution for campaign expenses?" said a tramp, stepping up to a business man. "I'm doing a little collecting to help things along."

"What party are you a representative of?" asked the merchant.

"Now which would you suppose, judging from my personal appearance?"

Well, that is rather a hard question. From your hungry and hopeless look I might take you for a Greenbacker; from your assumed pious expression and the extent of your cheek, I should say you were a Republican; but when I catch the aroma of your breath and note the size and color of your nose, I set you down as a Democrat every time.—Texas Siftings.

To three Milwaukee lawyers who put in a bill amounting to \$25,000 for services in settling an estate worth \$32,000, Judge Thomas Drummond said: "Gentlemen, you consider yourselves good lawyers." How much more are your services worth to your clients than mine to the people? You have charged \$25,000 for sixty days' service. Could you not be content, each of you, to take my pro rata for the same time? These charges are infamous. They are such as men who are scoundrels and thieves at heart would make. This charge of \$25,000 is cut down to \$1,500; those of \$5,000 each to \$500. Repeat such a piece of rapine in this court and I disbar every one of you.

The project of cutting a ship canal across the province of Holstein, connecting the North Sea with the Baltic, is now being taken up by the German authorities in earnest. The canal is to run from near the mouth of the Elbe to the harbor of Kiel, Germany's chief naval port on the "Ostsee." It is to be constructed of such dimensions as to permit the largest ironclads in the German navy steaming from the Baltic to the German Ocean, or vice versa, thus avoiding the necessity of making, as at present, the long voyage round the peninsula of Jutland. Detailed drawings of the subject are to be submitted to the new Reichstag.

A theory found among theologians of several centuries ago is that when Adam by transgression offended God, he was deprived of one of his senses—the spirit sense, by which he was enabled to perceive things spiritually, to converse with spirits and attain heights in spirit love. Being deprived of the spirit sense his offspring are without it, too, though occasional glimpses of the spirit world are afforded them as special favors.

New Tastes Differ.

Texas Siftings.

An Austin candidate was very demonstrative toward the colored voters during the excitement of a local election. In a spasm of political frenzy he went up to an influential darkey who kept a saloon, and said:

"I would rather ten times over grasp the hand of an honest colored man than that of a white loafer."

"Dat's whar we differs. I'll take de hand ob de white loafer fast every time. Shake!"

Mr. Lane-Fox, of London, has constructed a lightning bolt killer. The instant the animal is touched with a little brass knob an inch spark of electricity passes into the brain, producing instant and painless death. It is equally effective on murderers.

It was a Boston lady who, when asked if she really liked the new Corot which she was showing with such great pride, had the courage to reply: "If it is a Corot, it is perfectly lovely; but if it isn't—well, if it isn't, I don't think I care for it much."

An Iowa bank closed its doors in consequence of the sudden and unexpected departure of the cashier. The next day the local paper announced the event in the following head-line: "Another Pioneer of American Civilization Lights Out for Polynesia."

The bell boys in St. Louis hotels are talking of organizing a union in order to be able to successfully combat the female boarders who ring for them to know the time of day, to tie their shoes, stir their fires and all such trifling things.

A wood carver declares that those things representing Indians, and which, from long time back, have been the insignia of the tobacco trade, are rapidly going into disuse, although a few battered members of the tribe still linger about here and there.

Handsome girls make successful thieves, for no one likes to suspect them of wrong. A bright brunette illustrated this at Astoria, N. Y., the other day. She went into the choir of a church during service and walked off with the sealings and gear of the singers.

Trains on the Northern Pacific are supplied with a "grub box," to be used by the passengers in case the train should happen to get snowed in on its journey. The box contains bread crackers, canned beef, fish, and canned baked beans.

Matthew Arnold will write a book about America when he gets back. He will pay us off for our failure to appreciate him.

Grows first appeared in Russia after the French retreat from Moscow, and the people still hate them and call them Napoleon's scavengers.

A Worcester, Mass., fiddler named Riedel took his old instrument to be repaired, when the repairer found it to be an Anatis of 1670, worth \$5,000.

The largest school in the world is probably the Jews' Free School in Spitalfields, London. It has a daily attendance of nearly 3,000 people.

The daughter of a Texas cattle king has just returned from Paris, where she said she walked through the Tuolalorals, and visited a shot toe where she saw the statues of Physis and Catherine de Medici.

Snackles says his wife hasn't been shopping for some time—as much as two days. The last time she went down town she bought a pair of terra cotta gloves, and a sealink muff—"just to keep her hand in."—Chaff.

A woman lay three days in a trance at Big Rapids, Mich. On recovering she believed that she had died and come to life as another person. This delusion cannot be dispelled, though in other respects she is sane.

"Fly-loo" is played in bar-rooms by borrowing as many lumps of sugar from the bar bowl as there are players, placing them on the bar counter, and waiting. The owner of the jump on which a fly alights is winner.

"What are you drinking with this crowd for?" asked a Democrat of a thirsty Republican. "This is a drink over Cleveland's nomination." "Oh, well, I'm a patriot; I'll drink over anything."

I have no enemies but the people who abuse animals, and the men who abuse animals are never dangerous to anybody else. They wouldn't even abuse the animals if they could defend themselves.—Henry Bergh.

In Bengal alone there are 10,000, 000 people who suffer hunger when the harvest fails, and 18,000,000 more who never know what it is to have a full stomach.

Richard K. Fox, a sporting editor of New York, has given bonds in \$1,000 not to repeat within a year the offense of promoting a prize-fight.

South Carolina young men carry the left forearm of a rabbit in the left breast pocket for good luck in love affairs.

Miss Laura Bridgman, of Boston, the deaf and dumb mute, is still living at the age of sixty.

Miss Leo d'Ascot, a Parisian actress, has two big lions for pets in her boudoir.

The man who is always behind will have no followers.—Boston Transcript.

It cost Uncle Sam this year \$5,456, 306.31 to take care of "Lo," the poor Indian.

A Mississippi dog bit off a boy's nose and swallowed it.

The monks and nuns in Italy number nearly 32,000.



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FOR SALE.

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W. H. HARDY.

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